

Bureau of Land Management Energy Policy Tasks Completion Categories

Category 1	<i>Tasks for Immediate Completion NOT Requiring Regulations or Legislation (3-6 Months)</i>	Responsible Office
Task 1	BLM will expedite completion of the ongoing Energy Policy Conservation Act (EPCA) study of impediments to federal oil and gas exploration and development.	WO-300
Task 2	BLM will, based on the results of the EPCA evaluation, review lands status and lease stipulations.. Internal guidance to address exceptions for existing stipulation will be issued within 6 months. [note: see remainder of EPCA evaluation task in No 2 Category 2)]	WO-300/200
Task 5	BLM will develop common reclamation standards for oil and gas leases and institute a reclamation monitoring policy to determine the efficacy of lease provisions to achieve reclamation.	WO-310
Task 8	BLM will identify ways to expedite the process of approving Applications for Permits to Drill.	WO-310
Task 14	BLM will continue ongoing operations associated with existing leases (Applications for Permits to Drill, Inspection and Enforcement, and National Environmental Policy Act) within the NPR-A area.	AKSO
Task 19	BLM will identify methods to expedite the processing of pending geothermal leases.	WO-310
Task 21	BLM will contract for a geothermal literature search and an identification of constraints to access. [note: depending upon available funds]	WO-310

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Task 23	BLM will, for each hydropower licensing project, appoint a Project Manager and assemble a team of resource specialists to identify impacts, mitigation opportunities, and annual budget needs; identify hydropower projects within all Resource Management Plans; and work with other agencies to streamline and improve the application process.	State Directors
Task 24	BLM will inventory and prioritize energy-related right-of-way applications.	State Directors
Task 25	BLM will initiate coordinated, inter-governmental, interagency, Right-of-Way corridor planning efforts (including coordination with BLM land use planning for public lands efforts) in partnership with industry and public interest groups.	AD,W0-300
Task 26	BLM will expand its existing Right-of-Way Project Manager Pilot Project (assigning ROW specialists to major and complex right-of-way applications on a bureau-wide basis) to include other federal and state agencies.	PMC
Task 27	BLM will work with all federal agencies who have responsibility for the review and analysis of energy-related right-of-way applications to expedite the process.	AD,W0-300
Task 28	BLM will initiate an internal review with all agencies of administrative processes for reviewing and granting right-of-way applications and remove or reduce impediments to timely decision-making.	AD,W0-300
Task 33	BLM will improve our ability to meet the demand for Federal coal sales through the Lease by Application Process. This will include a review of current Lease by Application processes to streamline procedures and reduce processing time.	WO-300

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Task 37	BLM will develop policy to encourage recovery of abandoned coal refuse with uncertain federal title.	WO-300
Task 38	BLM will establish an internal mechanism with staff capability to coordinate bureau efforts and obligations associated with the implementation of energy-related programs and projects.	WO-300
Task 39	BLM will form a Land Use Management Team to coordinate and facilitate efforts of BLM and USFS.	WO-210
Task 40	BLM will issue guidance to ensure meaningful consultation with federally recognized tribal governments when assisting in the development of tribal energy resources; when implementing energy tasks which might affect trust resources and treaty rights; when energy tasks might affect areas on public land of concern to tribal communities; or when developing energy related regulatory policies on matters that significantly or uniquely affect tribal communities.	WO-300/200
Task 41	BLM will enhance inspection and enforcement capabilities to ensure that inspections are completed and lessee/operators are notified of corrective action requirements in a timely manner to ensure that the public resources are protected.	WO-300

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Category 2	<i>Tasks Requiring Administrative Action (Greater than 6 months)</i>	Responsible Office
Task 2	BLM will, based on the results of the EPCA evaluation, review lands status and lease stipulations. All changes will be considered with full public consultation through the land use planning process; especially with the people in the region. [note: partial internal guidance for addressing exceptions for existing stipulation within 6 months (see No.2 in next Category 1)]	WO-300/200
Task 10	BLM will conduct biennial leasing in the northeast sector of NPR-A starting in 2002.	AKSO
Task 11	BLM will prepare to hold lease sales in other NPR-A sectors, with the first sale scheduled for 2004.	AKSO
Task 12	BLM will work with the USGS on updating the undiscovered oil and gas resource estimates for the NPR-A.	AKSO
Task 13	BLM will initiate environmental analyses for full field development within NPR-A by 2003.	AKSO
Task 16	BLM will institute environmental and planning studies, if funding is available, for implementation of a best-practices leasing and development program. [note: depending upon available funding]	AKSO
Task 17	BLM will complete the re-permitting of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System by 2003.	JPO
Task 18	BLM will expeditiously review the application(s) anticipated for a North Slope natural gas pipeline(s). As a part of this effort, BLM will coordinate activities with the State of Alaska and the Canadian government. [note; may need legislative action or further legal guidance]	AKSO

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Category 2	<i>Tasks Requiring Administrative Action (Greater than 6 months)</i>	Responsible Office
Task 20	BLM will revise the Categorical Exclusion list to include geothermal resources and examine opportunities that could be added to the geothermal list.	WO-310/210
Task 22	BLM will evaluate the availability of, and limitations on, use and access to public lands in order to increase renewable energy production, such as biomass, water, wind and solar energy.	WO-310
Task 29	BLM will increase the availability of existing right-of-way training courses and work towards wider participation in such courses by appropriate federal and industry staff involved in right-of-way applications.	ROW- Project Manager
Task 36	BLM will look for opportunities to improve and streamline the management of the NEPA process for all energy resource proposals with all surface management bureaus offices and affected agencies.	TBD

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Category 3	<i>Tasks Requiring Regulatory Action</i>	Responsible Office
Task 3	BLM will evaluate royalty rate reductions and other incentives for enhanced recovery and extension of field life consistent with the receipt of fair market value. Where such steps require legislation, BLM will draft legislative proposals.	WO-310
Task 4	BLM will complete the rule making on bonding liability for onshore oil and gas operations.	WO-310
Task 7	BLM will explore other regulation and policy changes relative to liability and reclamation, including the lease assignment approval policy and process, and the orphan well policy relating to legacy wells. It will also consider a single bond and common stipulations for both lease and related off-lease facilities and roads.	WO-310
Task 9	BLM will complete unitization, suspension, and extension regulations for National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A).	WO-630
Task 30	BLM will finalize and publish BLM and USFS 1999 proposed right-of-way cost recovery regulations to increase recovery revenue.	WO-300
Task 32	BLM will review its policies, practices, regulations and statutes to identify opportunities to expand the scope of existing coal and coal bed methane conflict policy to new and readjusted coal and oil and gas leases with the intent of adopting a uniform policy for revising or rewriting existing regulations, and/or developing legislation, as needed.	SO- to be determined
Task 34	BLM will develop policy, regulatory revisions, or proposed technical amendments to the Mineral Leasing Act , as amended, to streamline coal lease operations and eliminate obsolete leasing provisions, while maintaining environmental and fair-market value standards. This task will focus on actions that can be taken after a lease is issued.	WO-300

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Category 3	<i>Tasks Requiring Regulatory Action</i>	Responsible Office
Task 35	BLM will provide timely royalty relief incentives for recovery of uneconomic or marginally economic coal resources through improved lease management.	WO-300

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Category 4	<i>Tasks Requiring Legislative Action (Some tasks are repeated from the Regulation Section)</i>	Responsible Office
Task 3	BLM will evaluate royalty rate reductions and other incentives for enhanced recovery and extension of field life consistent with the receipt of fair market value. Where such steps require legislation, BLM will draft legislative proposals.	WO-300
Task 6	BLM will explore innovative sources of funding for reclamation and other unfunded liability issues.	WO-310
Task 15	BLM, should Congress so authorize, will evaluate and determine the necessary steps for an environmentally sound leasing and development program in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).	AKSO/ WO-300
Task 31	BLM will develop a legislative proposal for Administration consideration to allow federal agencies to retain a portion of rental receipts (rather than returning receipts to the U.S. Treasury) paid by holders of right-of-way for use on federal lands.	WO-300
Task 32	BLM will review its policies, practices, regulations and statutes to identify opportunities to expand the scope of existing coal and coal bed methane conflict policy to new and readjusted coal and oil and gas leases with the intent of adopting a uniform policy for revising or rewriting existing regulations, and/or developing legislation, as needed.	SO- to be determined
Task 34	BLM will develop policy, regulatory revisions, or proposed technical amendments to the Mineral Leasing Act , as amended, to streamline coal lease operations and eliminate obsolete leasing provisions, while maintaining environmental and fair-market value standards. This task will focus on actions that can be taken after a lease is issued.	WO-300